

Message Text

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ACTION DLOS-06

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 EA-11 IO-14 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00

NSAE-00 NSCE-00 SSO-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 COA-02 EB-11

OIC-04 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01

PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20 ACDA-19 AEC-11 AGR-20 CG-00

COME-00 DOTE-00 FMC-04 INT-08 JUSE-00 NSF-04 OMB-01

SCI-06 CEQ-02 DRC-01 TRSE-00 /212 W

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FM AMEMBASSY VIENNA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 516

INFO USMISSION USUN NEW YORK IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY SAIGON PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L VIENNA 9292

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PBOR, UN, AU

SUBJECT: LOS: POSSIBLE EFFORT INVITE PRG TO
PARTICIPATE IN LAW OF SEA CONFERNECE

REF: A. STATE 216882 B. STATE 221352 C. VIENNA 9175
D. STATE 222028

1. IN CALL ON FOREIGN MINISTER KIRSCHLAEGER IN
LATE AFTERNOON NOVEMBER9, I STRESSED OUR VERY
STRONG OPPOSITION TO ANY UNGA PROPOSAL TO INVITE
PROVISIONAL REVOLUTIONARY GOVERNMENT OF REPUBLIC
OF SOUTH VIETNAM (PRG) TO THE LOS CONFERENCE. I
REVIEWSED WITH HIM ARGUMENTS CONTAINED REFTEL A.
AND B. AND NOTED THAT MY POLITICAL COUNSELOR HAD
ALREADY BEEN IN TOUCH WITH FOREIGN OFFICE CHIEF OF
POLITICAL DEPARTMENT ON ISSUE (REFTEL :). I SAID
WE WERE VERY MUCH DISTURBED BY PROSPECT OF POSSIBLE
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AUSTRIAN ABSTENTION ON ISSUE AND INDICATED MAJOR

IMPORTANCE OPPOSING VOTE FROM AUSTRIA WOULD HAVE
ON OUR EFFORTS TO HAVE PROPOSAL REJECTED.

2. FOREIGN MINISTER STATED HE FELT AUSTRIAN ABSTENTION ON ISSUE SEEM TO BE QUOTE ADEQUATE ATTITUDE UNQUOTE TO TAKE ON THIS PROBLEM. HE ATTEMPTED TO JUSTIFY THIS POSITION BY EXPLAINING PRG, WHILE NOT STATE, HAD ENJOYED ROLE OF PARTICIPANT IN PARIS ON PEACE TALKS, THAT US HAD SAT AT SAME TABLE WITH PRG, AND THAT AUSTRIAN (NON-GOVERNMENTAL) ORGANIZATIONS, WHICH ARE ASSISTING IN RECOVERY OF VN, HAVE BEEN IN TOUCH WITH BOTH SIDES IN SOUTH VIETNAM.

3. I RESPONDED THAT I FELT COMPARISON WAS TOTALLY INAPPROPRIATE SINCE PRESENCE OF PRG AT PARIS PEACE TALKS WAS INTEGRAL PART OF EFFORT TO PROMOTE END OF HOSTILITIES IN VIETNAM. ON OTHER HAND INVITATION TO PRG TO LOS CONFERENCE WOULD BE ACT OF PLACING POLITICAL EXPEDIENCY ABOVE PRINCIPLE AND WOULD IN OUR VIEW SERVE TO UNDERMINE EFFORTS OF NUMBER OF COUNTRIES, INCLUDING AUSTRIA AND US, TO STRENGTHEN UN. I ALSO REMINDED KIRSCHLAEGER THAT SHORTLY AFTER TAKING OVER AS FOREIGN MINISTER, HE HAD ANNOUNCED HE WAS OF FIRM OPINION THAT AUSTRIA SHOULD TAKE POSITION OF PRINCIPLE ON IMPORTANT INTERNATIONAL ISSUES.

4. KIRSCHLAEGER, IN HALF-APOLOGETIC VEIN, SAID HE WOULD, ON BASIS OF MY DEMARCHE, ORDER SERIOUS RECONSIDERATION OF GOA POSITION, THAT HE, HOWEVER, COULD NOT MAKE ANY PROMISES, AND THAT HE WOULD BE IN TOUCH IN NEXT DAYS ON OUTCOME OF REVIEW. HUMB

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